

REPORT TITLE | **Confirmation for Minutes**

MOTION

Moved by *Cr Tim McMahon*, seconded by *Graham Cooke*

That the Minutes of the *Biosecurity Advisory Committee* dated *21 May 2021* be confirmed.

CARRIED

ORDER OF BUSINESS

DATE: 21 May 2021

OPENED: 9:00am

VENUE: Charlton Depot

PRESENT (as per sign on sheet):

Cr Nancy Sommerfield (TRC)
Cr Tim McMahon (TRC)
Mark Ready (TRC)
Anthony McWatters (Com)
Carisa Hallinan (WDRC)
Kirsty Harrison (TRC)
Graham Cooke (LCR)
Holly Hosie (SQL)
Rebecca Morrissy (GRC)

Micheal Condren (TRC)
Matthew Warren (SDRC)
Shane Lampard (SRC)
Rob Wallers (LVRC)
Peter Tatham (Com)
Ian Stevenson (DDMRB)
Nathan Willis (QPWS)
Denise Whyte (SBRC)
Janet Barker (Com)

APOLOGIES:

Nick Hauser (TRC)
Bruce Lord (HLW)
Steve Brennan (SRC)
Peter Sparshott (TMR)
Steven Moore (LVRC)

John Cuskelly (DAF)
Cr James O'Shea (TRC)
Matthew Parker (Com)
Belinda Callahan (Agforce)

Cr Sommerfield welcomed everyone to the meeting.

ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES (19 Feb 2021)

Moved: Cr Tim McMahon

Seconded: Graham Cooke

CARRIED

ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

None outstanding from the previous minutes.

PARTNER UPDATES

Anthony McWatters (Com)

1. Community member from Haden.
2. Very thankful for the late season rain we received.

Carisa Hallinan (WDRC)

1. The rain has been lovely and our region has been wet and some areas are still receiving rain.
2. With the onset of the rain we have had lots of parthenium infestations that were on the roadside that have ventured into neighbouring properties. Staff are currently working on targeting these infestations.
3. Currently finalising the Stock route facilities.
4. Navigating our way through 1080.

Denise Whyte (SBRC)

1. We have seen a big influx of Parthenium which are an expansion on our current infestations.
2. Targeted a Honey Loctus historic outbreak on the Stuart River. We were able to source drought funding to undertake a coordinated treatment program. We involved our neighbouring Councils and used it as an opportunity to undertake a rapid response exercise.
3. We've received some good rain in our region.

Graham Cooke (LCR)

1. There has been a turnaround in the season.
2. As far as a Landcare perspective we had a range of projects happening but not much on the feral pest and weed management side.
3. With the improved weather conditions will it lead to a fire program due to an increased fuel load? Or due to a softer season and there being moisture around, will that reduce the load.
4. There are some dogs and pigs around and the pigs we have seen are looking healthy due to plenty of food sources and not having to travel far for water. The pigs will be sourcing the winter crops especially chickpeas.
5. The mice problem has generally eased across the downs however we still see the reports in NSW.

Holly Hosie (SQL)

1. In the last month we have submitted 2 Queensland Feral Pest Initiative grants for round 6:
 - a. A multi-Council approach to target Harris Cactus and priority weeds identified in each Council areas.
 - b. Feral animal control project in Southern Downs.
2. SQL are working with Southern Downs Council to hold a Harris Cactus field day on the 4th June 2021 in the Leyburn area.

3. Met with the TRC Infrastructure staff to look at the Grassland mapping project and roadside management – how these sites will be managed during roadworks, etc to ensure the Grassland areas are protected.

Ian Stevenson (DDMRB)

1. We have two main functions, one to maintain and upgrade the fence and the other compliance.
2. Regarding the fence, things have slowed down, the rain has been good but unfortunately there has been a lot of vegetation and due to the wet we have been unable to get vehicles/slashing equipment/spraying equipment in to rectify.
3. A contractor is repairing 27km of fence due to damage from the fires in 2019.
4. Completed 31km of top netting as part of the cluster scheme with Goondiwindi Council.
5. Compliance area received funding from the state for surveying. As part of the Survey, Lockyer Valley staff were trained.
6. Around the Toowoomba region, 10 breeding sites were removed.
7. Rosevale survey will commence in the next week or so.

Janet Barker (Com)

1. Weeds Society state conference next year in the South West Region. We are meeting to create a form to send to host Councils/committees. You will receive correspondence in the next couple of months.
2. From my local area there is a new outbreak of Parthenium. At the time there was only 3-4 properties and about 300 hectares. A news article came out in the Clifton Courier this week stating 20kms roadside and 1500 hectares are affected. This is a fairly big infestations and the next 6-12 months are absolutely critical.
3. Cambooya Landcare hasn't been able to source funding for Helicopter shooting. I believe these landholders will fund a shoot themselves. They are hopeful the aerial shoot will also assist with dog control. A frustration of mine is they complain about dogs but don't want to bait. I look forward to seeing the data on baiting participants from your upcoming baiting program.
4. Suggestion - Awareness campaign/field day for baiting – questions and answers event

Matthew Warren (SDRC)

1. The biggest news for us is we are no longer carting water to the Stanthorpe area anymore.
2. Council has officially withdrawn the Basic Pest Control Scheme. We have undertaken a review of our Biosecurity plan which was endorsed by Council last meeting and will be going out for public comments soon.
3. We have had a reshuffle of staff in the Pest Management space which means we will be running lighter for the foreseeable future.
4. Working in collaboration with SQL to run a Harris Cactus field day.
5. As like everyone else, we are trying to work out what to do in the 1080 space. We receive a fairly good turnout to our baiting programs and believe its appreciated by the community. We are discussing the 1080 changes and how to approach these changes moving forward. As like many Councils here, we have applied for the transitional funding.

Garry Wilson (TRC)

1. Thank you, Janet, for your comments, I have a presentation to discuss those things under the TRC Update coming up shortly.

Nathan Willis (QPWS)

1. QPWS has approved a policy to allow staff to use a K9 pest ejectors within all QPWS land throughout Queensland.
2. Due to the extra rain we have had a big increase of weeds in some of the areas that have been dry for so long. Our staff have been doing a lot of weed work that's come about due to lack of ability to undertake planned burns due to the moisture profile.
3. Cats claw around the Crows Nest area. We have identified love grass and other grasses have been spread by machinery.

Rebecca Morrissy (GRG)

1. We've received a lot of feedback from the community about wild dog activity. Due to this we organised a baiting program earlier this week for the Texas area. It's frustrating we didn't have the uptake by the properties who complained. This baiting program we did not supply the meat but stated we will supply the bait next round in July.
2. We received funding from the DPI to target Harrisia cactus.
3. Willows cactus has now been declared within our local area. We have requested property owners who have this plant in their gardens to please dispose in the bins provided. Property owners who don't will receive an order. We are also rolling this communication out to rural landholders.

Micheal Condren (TRC)

1. I would like to introduce myself, I'm the Manager of Parks and Recreation services. One of my areas of responsibility is Conversation and Pest Management.
2. Our councillors have expressed interest in Councils Biosecurity plans.
3. I believe this community is making great strides in the last year or two and commend you all for the work that's been done.

Peter Tatham (Com)

1. There has been reports of wild dog attacks in the area which continue. Peri-urban dog route that I'm involved in has a couple new participants for the Lockyer Valley Council area. Its hard to motivate people in the area of their biosecurity requirements under the legislation on managing pest and diseases.
2. The bit of rain has been good. We have had our first frost.

Shane Lampard (SRC)

1. Rain has been received and GRT has come. We are bracing ourselves for Fire weed.
2. Our Parthenium approach as per the Drought funding we received is to have a prevention and control program. In April we treated 300 hectares via helicopter which was successful.

Rob Wallers (LRC)

1. A milestone for us was when our Biosecurity Plan got adopted. It has gone to print and will be available on our website within a week.
2. Surveillance program to target GRT and Parthenium in the second half of the year.
3. 1080 Baiting program, 4week program, 38 participants. Over the years it has drop substantially. We went from wet meat to dry meat baits. 4 times a year to 2 times a year. We have 6 cage pig traps we hire out up to 6 months at a time.

TRC UPDATE

1. Garry Wilson and Mark Ready presented this PowerPoint presentation and answered questions on these 3 topics –
 - Wild Dog Management
 - Parthenium – current outbreak and action summary
 - Priority Survey Locations



Cr Nancy Sommerfield left the meeting at 10.45am due to a migraine. Cr Sommerfield thanked everyone for coming and for their input.

Cr Tim McMahon took over as chair.

DISCUSSION AND BENCHMARKING ACTIONS

1. This agenda item was deferred until the next meeting.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1080 Update –

1. A general discussion was had on the 1080 changes and these documents were deliberated –
2. Consultation starts on the 18th May – 27th May. And submissions in by the 7th June.
3. Mark requested all Local Government review the ‘Recommendations to Qld Health’ document created by Rebecca Morrissy.
4. An official submission from all Local Government parties here today and providing this information to LGAQ to provide to all other Councils.
5. The group endorsed the recommendations with no objections.
6. Advocate with Kristy Gooding an extension to the consultation period.



Recommendations to
Qld Health.pdf



1080 requirements
for authorised person

Cr Tim McMahon left the meeting at 12.01pm. Cr McMahon thanked everyone.

Cr Tim McMahon delegated Mr Mark Ready as chair.

Trapping Workshops –

1. Nathan Willis requested if it was possible to run some Trapping Workshops in the Groomsville area due to the wild dogs numbers being high.
2. Garry Wilson said this is something they can do and will look into it further under Councils Biosecurity Strategic actions.

Next meeting is 20 August 2021

Mr Ready thanked everyone for their attendance.